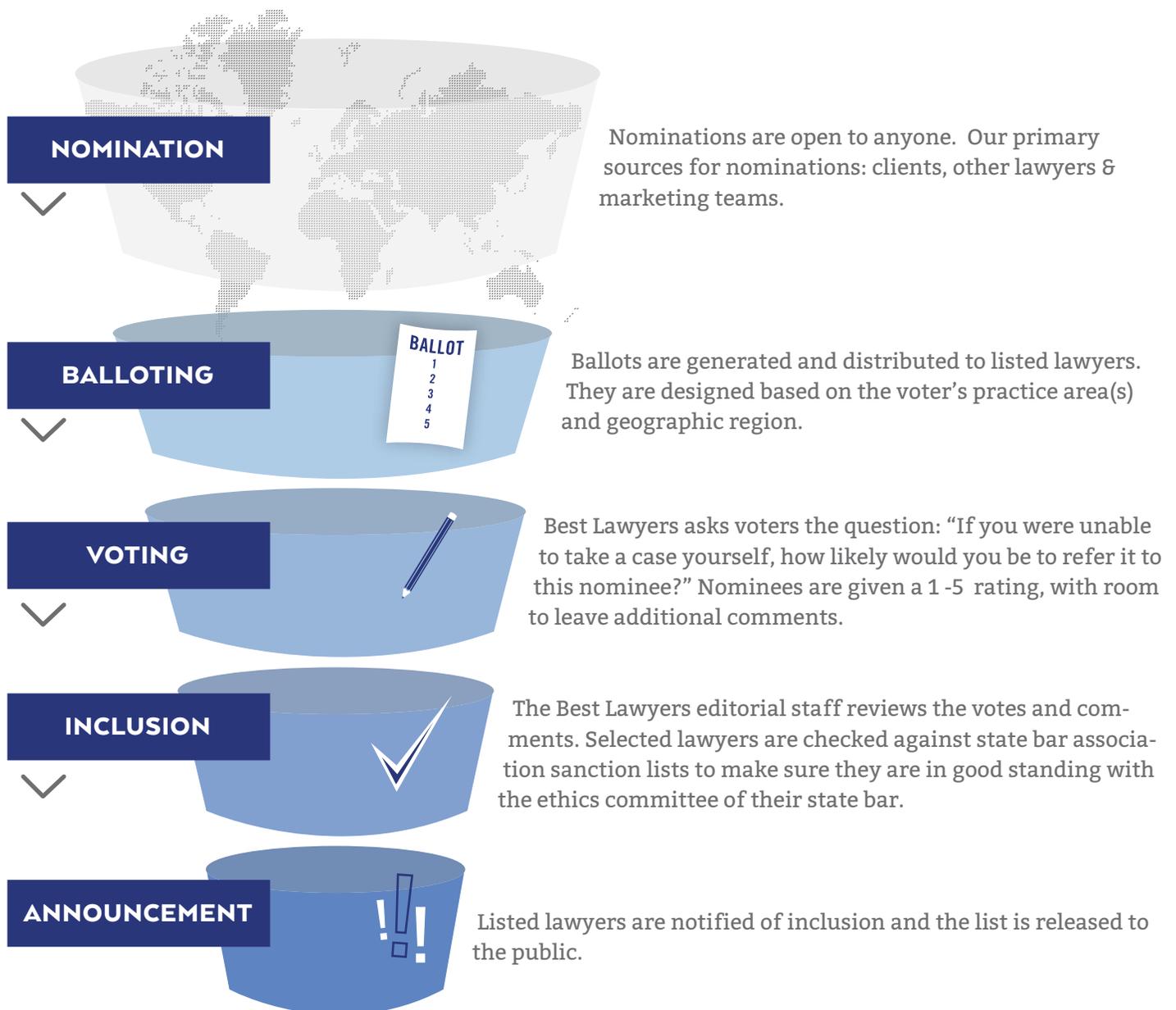


Best Lawyers®

METHODOLOGY

Inclusion in *Best Lawyers* is based entirely on peer-review. The methodology is designed to capture, as accurately as possible, the consensus opinion of leading lawyers about the professional abilities of their colleagues within the same geographical area and legal practice area. Best Lawyers employs a sophisticated, conscientious, rational, and transparent survey process designed to elicit meaningful and substantive evaluations of the quality of legal services. Our belief has always been that the quality of a peer-review survey is directly related to the quality of its voting pool.



Best Lawyers in America® EXPANDED METHODOLOGY

NOMINATION PROCESS

- Best Lawyers does not accept nominations for in-house lawyers. All nominees must be in private practice.
- Please note that the nominator, or number of nominations received, has no effect on a lawyer's listing.
- All lawyers in the previous edition of *Best Lawyers* are automatically nominated into their listed practice area(s) for the next peer-review process and must garner enough positive votes to be included in the next edition.
- While there is no limit to the number of lawyers a firm may nominate, we suggest that nominees be in practice for at least ten years in order to give them time to build a legal presence in their community and practice area(s).
- We ask that a lawyer not nominate himself or herself.

BALLOTING PROCESS

- Because Best Lawyers' voters provide peer-review within their own geographic region and practice area(s) lawyers are not allowed to select which nominees (from the entire pool) they want to vote on.
- Ballots are customized by the Best Lawyers staff based on the voter's geographic region and practice area(s).

VOTING PROCESS

- Attorneys currently listed in *Best Lawyers in America* are eligible to vote.
- All ballots and information submitted are strictly confidential.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

- "5" is the highest score and indicates that the voter would certainly refer a case to the nominee. "1" is the lowest score and indicates that the voter would definitely not refer a case to the nominee. Voting lawyers are also allowed to provide decimal points in order to make their votes more precise.
- The option to choose "Do Not Know" is also available, which signifies that the voter is not familiar with a particular lawyer's work.
- Lawyers are not allowed to vote on themselves. In order to avoid this altogether, we remove attorneys' names from their own ballots.
- Voters cannot complete ballots for lawyers in their own firm. To assure this does not occur, attorneys from their firm will not appear on their ballot.

VERIFICATION PROCESS

- Selected lawyers' contact information is confirmed to ensure clients can reach them.

ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS

- Lawyers who are included in the new edition are alerted via email and hard-copy letter. Marketing Departments at firms also receive a complete list of the lawyers included from their firm.